

**MA (with thesis)**Timeline (24 months)

Year 1, September – April (Fall and Winter semesters)

- Coursework (7000, 7001, plus three other graduate courses).
- Select a supervisor. (The Department assigns your supervisor(s) when you are admitted to the program.)
- Select a thesis topic, in collaboration with your supervisor, and submit the *Topic Approval* form (500 words).

By the end of May

- Write and submit the thesis Research Proposal (20 pages double space).

By the end of June

- Proposal presentation, generally scheduled 3 weeks after submitting the written proposal (pass/fail).

Year 2, including the last two months of Year 1 (14 months)

- Obtain ICEHR approval (if needed).
- Completion of research.
- Thesis writing, submission for examination, revisions (if needed), and final submission.

Additional information

Application for ICEHR (ethics) approval

- ICEHR approval is required each time your research involves human participants, for example as speakers of a given language, language learners, or as participants to a social or scientific experiment. In comparison, research on pre-existing corpus data or on theory normally does not require ICEHR approval.
- ICEHR proposals generally involve the equivalent of 2 weeks full time work to prepare for submission.
- Please allow at least 2-3 weeks for the ICEHR committee to review the application (it can take longer). If research is dependent on funding, the money will not be released until ethics approval has been granted.

Research design

- Longitudinal studies are usually lengthy but not intensive, and should ideally start as early as possible after the project is approved (by the department, and by ICEHR).
- Group/cross-sectional studies can take place over much shorter periods of time, and at higher intensity.
- Studies that are mostly within the conceptual/theoretical realm are typically easier to plan and/or to conduct, although they may be the most challenging at times, always depending on the topic and related background within the relevant literature.

**Thesis writing**

The research proposal offers an opportunity to address at least parts of the literature background and methodology, and most of this writing is typically used as part of the thesis. Methodology should be updated each time decisions have to be made about research design and implementation. In total, an MA thesis generally corresponds to 6-8 months of work, full time. During this period, you will meet regularly with your supervisor(s). MA theses are usually lengthy documents (80+ pages, often closer to 100 pages or slightly more), depending on the topic area, the amount of data to be included, and the level of analysis.

**Thesis submission**

This is a relatively simple process, all done electronically, once the thesis is complete and ready for examination. The thesis submission requires approvals (on signed forms) from your supervisor(s) and the Head of the Department, who will forward the electronic documents to higher administration. There are two examiners, an internal examiner, who will be chosen from within the Department of Linguistics at Memorial University, and an external examiner, who will be a specialist in the relevant field at a different institution. The identity of both examiners is kept confidential until the examination process is complete.

**Revisions and final submission**

Examiners commonly recommend revisions be made to a thesis. The supervisor reviews these and provides the student with guidance as to which recommendations are required before the thesis can be approved for final submission. Generally, revisions are relatively minor and can be completed within days or weeks. With the supervisor's approval that the necessary revisions have been made, and the relevant paperwork completed to that effect, the final submission is made electronically. In the event that examiners request extensive revisions, a thesis may be required to be resubmitted for examination.

**MA (non-thesis)**Timeline (24 months)

Year 1 (first two Fall and Winter semesters):

- Course work, including LING 7000 and LING 7001
- Other graduate courses as needed

Course selection is determined based on course offerings each year, with full completion of all courses except LING 6999 expected by the end of the following Fall semester. In some cases, an additional course may need to be taken during the final semester of the program.

Year 2:

- Third semester:
  - Completion of course work (except LING 6999)
  - Engage with a supervisor toward your capstone research project (LING 6999) during your final semester
  - Confirm your research plan to the Graduate Officer
- Fourth semester:
  - Enroll in LING 6999 (and additional courses if needed to complete your degree)
  - As part of 6999: Paper writing, submission for examination, revisions (if needed), and final submission.

Additional information**Capstone paper writing**

The capstone research paper offers an opportunity to address current issues in a particular domain of linguistic research. Original research is not a requirement for this paper, which can take the form of a critical summary of the current literature on a given topic, itself selected based on consultations with your paper supervisor. During this final semester you will meet regularly with your supervisor. Your capstone paper is expected to be a minimum of 35 pages in length, excluding references or appendices (if the latter are needed).

**Paper submission**

This is a relatively simple process, all done electronically, once the paper is complete and ready for examination. The paper submission requires approvals from your supervisor and the Graduate Officer. There is a single, internal examiner, who will be chosen from within the Department of Linguistics at Memorial University. The identity of the examiner is kept confidential until the examination process is complete.

**Revisions and final submission**

Examiners commonly recommend revisions be made to a paper. The supervisor reviews these and provides the student with guidance as to which recommendations are required before the paper can be approved for final submission. Generally, revisions are relatively minor and can be completed within days or weeks. With the supervisor's approval that the necessary revisions have been made, and approved by the examiner, also in collaboration with the research supervisor, the final submission is made electronically, to the Graduate Officer. In the event that the examiner requests extensive revisions, a paper may be required to be resubmitted for examination.